MURDERED MINER

Henry Arnold, Progressive Leader, who together with his friend James Attes, was shot down in cold blood in Arnold's home in Du Quoin by "special deputy sheriffs."

—Progressive Photo

Friday, April 14, 1933.

Perry County Thugs Murder James Attes And Henry Arnold

Authorities Savagely Attack Striking Miners On Picket Lines. Women's Auxiliary Makes Heroic Stand.

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50 members of the Progressive Miners of America were arrested and questioned about the shooting. State highway patrolmen joined in numerous attacks against Progressive members in the streets and highways leading to and from Du Quoin.

Headquarters and the relief station of the Progressive Union were ordered closed by the acting State's Attorney M. K. Grabowski, and Sheriff Albert Davis.

Sam Ferro, 22, and Barney Rosetto of Du Quoin were arrested in connection with the shooting of Miss Miller and placed in the Franklin county jail. Emery J. Alberts, a striking miner from Old Ben No. 15 at West Frankfort who resides at Du Quoin, Otis Battaglia, 18, and Robert Shingleton, 19, also of Du Quoin, who were likewise arrested in connection with the shooting, were held in the Jackson county jail at Murphysboro.

Tenseness prevailed throughout the week as over a hundred deputy sheriffs and state highway police patrolled the streets and highways assaulting and clubbing members of the Progressive Miners of America who happened to be caught. The well planned conspiracy to drive from the field the Progressive Miners of America had every indication that plenty of money and booze had been poured into the Du Quoin field to pull off the dastardly work.

SLUG MINERS

Velmer Williams, Arthur Williams and Ivan Francis were dragged from their car last Friday while they were parked in front of Judge Dowell's office on main street and roughly handled. Arthur Williams was terribly beaten by the gunmen. "Big Boy" Rheingans, the slayer of the two Progressive leaders, led the attack against Williams. Judge Dowell attorney for the Progressive Miners of America who was in his office, was an eye witness to the assault against the striking coal miner.

A car load of Du Quoin miners returning from Dowell which is located five miles from Du Quoin was stopped at the "Y" on Route two. The occupants of the car were forced out of the car and slugged by a state highway patrolman and a group of deputies. Black jacks and billiard cues were used by the attackers. The state highway patrolman bore badge No. 221.

It was reported that a group of miners from Dowell had been prevented from entering Perry County. Several of the Dowell miners were also beaten.

Fred and James Alabastro, striking miners, were arrested and later released on bond. They were charged with "inciting to riot." Fred Alabastro is the recording secretary of Local Union 102, P. M. of A.

BRAVE TEAR GAS AND RAIN

Members of the Progressive Miners of America and the Women's Auxiliary braved hail, rain and a heavy wind to picket the United Electric strip mine west of Du Quoin. The coal company had decided to abrogate the arrangements that they had made with the miners employed at the strip mine. For over five months peaceable relations had existed between the Progressive Miners and the company. For some mysterious reason, the company decided to resort to hostility by recognizing a minority of their employes who had formed what is called a "provisional local union" of the U. M. W. A. Miners state that the whole conspiracy was engineered by the bribery of some of the Lewis men employed at the mine, plus the pressure that John L. Lewis and his political lieutenants had brought on the company.

Approximately 250 Progressives picketed the mines peacefully four mornings and evenings without a single disturbance in the ranks. The picket work of the Progressives was effective, much to the worry of the strike breaking forces. Sheriff Alber Davis, who had previously given the miners the right of free speech, free assemblage and the right to picket, changed his mind after conferring with Melville, the Vice-President of the United Electric Company, and issued an ultimatum to the pickets that they would have to disperse within a period of three minutes.

The pickets held their ground and refused to be intimidated by the threats of the sheriff. Deputy Sheriff Rheingans came into prominence again here by shooting the first tear gas bomb among a group of women pickets. The wind was too strong for the tear gas to have any effect. All the pickets remained firm. The lines remained effective.

The following day miners from Dowell and DeSoto were stopped along the highway leading to Du Quoin and forced to return home. Many of the members of the Women's Auxiliary left their automobiles at Dowell and walked a distance of six miles along the Illinois Central Railroad tracks to join their Du Quoin sisters and brothers on the picket line. The heroism of the members of the Women's Auxiliary was undaunted in the face of the terrorism of the coal company gunmen.

DEPUTIZED COAL COMPANY THUGS MURDER JAMES ATTES AND HENRY ARNOLD BECAUSE OF ACTIVITIES

BRUTAL SLAYING TAKES PLACE IN ARNOLD HOME.

Sheriff of Perry County Reverses Previous Stand of Law Enforcement and Adopts Franklin County Tactics. Terror Runs Rampant Throughout Southern Illinois.

DU QUOIN, Ill.—The sweeping success of the Progressive Miners of America in southern Illnois coal mining counties has so aroused the ire of the enemies of unionism that they have resorted to open, cold blooded murder and wholesale intimidation in their attempt to stifle the rising power of the new rank and file miners' union.

Four deputy sheriffs murdered HENRY ARNOLD, 35, and JAMES ATTES, 47, two Perry county leaders of the Progressive Miners of America last Friday in the Arnold home south of Du Quoin.

Death in Du Quoin

Last Sunday afternoon one of the longest funeral processions ever seen in Du Quoin moved through the streets of that terrorized mining town of Perry County. Henry Arnold, striking coal miner, was being buried. And he was being honored in death by the men and women with whom he had stood up so valiantly for the rights of the miners. At the same hour Jimmie Attes was being laid to rest in West Frankfort. Together they had struck for the miners rights. Together they had died, victims of a legalized terrorism now sweeping Perry county, a terrorism that forbade even the reading of the Progressive Miners' ritual at Arnold's grave.

The American colors and the banner of the Spanish American war veterans' post, to which Arnold belonged, were carried at the head of the funeral procession. Services were conducted at the Methodist church. At Old Du Quoin cemetery Arnold was laid to rest, with the war veterans honoring him with their salute to the dead.

As the guns roared their salute, the screams of the sorrowing widow tore at the hearts of those who heard. Guns in the hands of deputies had killed Arnold and Attes when those terrorists, in the name of the law, had invaded the peace of the Arnold home just three days before.

Howard Rheingans, an insurance man and professional gunman, along with three other deputies invaded the Progressive miners' home without a warrant. Arnold and Attes yielded to the commands of the deputy sheriffs but evidently that was not what the gunmen wanted. Rheingans admits that he shot Attes through the head killing the miner almost instantly. Arnold was showered with bullets and lived several hours after he was shot.

BULLET HOLES IN FLOOR

A pool of blood in the bathroom of the Arnold home revealed that several shots had been shot in Attes body, piercing the floor, after he had slumped mortally wounded. Attes was found to have been shot four times.

Arnold was found by Mrs. Arnold slumped over a davenette in the front room of the home. He had been shot eight times and was semi-conscious when his wife approached him. His last words according to Mrs. Arnold were:

"Get me a doctor, mom, they got me."

He never regained consciousness after being taken to the Browning Hospital at Du Quoin.

Death in Du Quoin

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Frankfort. From Dowell Mrs. Rose Menzyk and her courageous women came in spite of threats and attacks already inflicted on Dowell Progressives.

The church where the services were conducted looks out upon the Du Quoin city park where just the previous Sunday afternoon thousands of Progressive Miners and Auxiliary women had met in a joyous and peaceful gathering. And here, one week later, two of the men who had been in that happy multitude were being carried to their graves, victims of reign of terror designed to crush the spirit of freedom in the coal fields of southern Illinois.

STATE TROOPERS COME

The very next day after this peaceful meeting of Progressives from the coal counties of Perry, Franklin, Saline and Williamson, the terror was started. The Lewis-Peabody dictatorship could not afford to lose the southern Illinois coal field and resolved that this Progressive spirit must be conquered at all costs. The Hitler of the coal fields, with the backing of state and county authorities, turned peaceful Perry county into another Franklin. Governor Horner's military observers and state policemen came on the scene. At once Sheriff Davis' special deputies swung into action with clubs and guns and tear gas. The persecution of the Perry county Progressives was begun and on Friday Arnold and Attes were shot down in cold blood in Arnold's home.

As the long funeral procession made its way to the cemetery, it had to pass the Arnold home. The neat lawn, the fruit trees and the well-kept bungalow bespoke the character of Henry Arnold, a home-loving and peace-loving citizen. Henry Arnold was a citizen who believed that he had a stake in government and was entitled to its protection. As a leader of the Progressives, he ran the risk of being killed by the thugs of a racketeering union. But never did he suspect that the "law" would invade his home and shoot him down.

After the minister had prayed and the war veterans had concluded their ritual at the grave, friends tried to lead the sorrowing widow away. "Buddy, Buddy, I can't leave you!" was the parting cry of the woman who had been a real buddy to Henry Arnold. She believed as he believed. His union had become her union. Together they had gone to the union meetings. Together they had sung the songs of labor and dreamed the dreams of labor. Together they had gone on the picket line, facing tear gas and clubs and guns. And with a suddenness that had stunned the entire community, she had lost this buddy.

WILL NEVER FORGET

"Buddy, buddy, I can't leave you!" The stern-set faces of the miners became like steel. The weeping eyes of women flashed fire. In silent unison they were saying, "We shall never forget this foul deed, committed in the name of the law. And we shall not turn back."

Their eyes caught the letters P. M. of A. glistening in the brilliant sunshine across a wreath of lilies and carnations. The lilies symbolized the purity of the new union for which six men and a woman have had to give their lives. The red of the carnations was symbolic of red-blooded men and women who refuse to submit to the Lewis-Peabody dictatorship of the mines.

Through the springtime air there seemed to come echoes of a song the Du Quoin miners and their wives had sung in their hall the week before. "We shall not be moved. Just like a tree planted by the water, we shall not be moved."

an ardent leader of the Women's Auxiliary. Naturally the widow looked to the union to honor her husband in death. But Perry County "law" would not even be merciful. Forbidden were the white uniforms of the Auxiliary. Forbidden was the burial ritual of the Progressive Miners' union.

With the miners' hall closed by Perry County "law", with deputies and state policemen swarming the town, with miners being clubbed in their homes and on main street, the word went round that no public funeral would be allowed. The miners were not even permitted to go view their dead. Each individual miner was left to wonder whether or not other miners would dare attend the funeral. Not wanting to contest the "law" in the face of the family's grief, the Progressive Miners' Union did not officiate at the funeral. But threats of violence from the "law" could not hold back the tide of fellowship and love of the rank and file. From all directions the miners and their wives came and even from the surrounding counties.

LEADERS ATTEND

Progressive leaders attended in spite of warnings. In the long line of mourning miners filing past the bier in the church, were seen Valmer Williams, president of Local Union 102, P. M. of A., of which Arnold was a member, Cecil Browning who had already suffered a shameful beating, Wm. South, president of the Dowell local, and other active Progressives. Mrs. Agnes Burns Wieck of Belleville president of the state auxiliary, came to express her sympathy to the widow who had been among the first of the Du Quoin women to join the auxiliary. Mrs. Catherine De Rorre, Du Quoin Auxiliary leader, and many Du Quoin Auxiliary women were among the throng. From Buckner Mrs. Pat Ansboury came with her Auxiliary women; only the week before Mrs. Ansboury had read a eulogy at the grave of John Ward, murdered Progressive Miner of West

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WIFE FIRST TO ENTER HOME

The first person to enter the home after the shooting was Mrs. Arnold who saw Attes motionless on the floor. Her husband, Henry Arnold, lay felled over the davenette. No weapons were near the murdered miners.

A coroner was immediately dispatched to the home by the authorities and instantly rendered a decision of "justifiable homicide."

Mrs. Arnold had previously made attempts to be permitted to go for a doctor but was prevented from doing so by the deputies. She finally made her way, horror stricken, for a doctor. Later two ambulances conveyed the dead and wounded miner to the hospital.

Arnold and Attes were striking miners from the Majestic Peabody mine. The mine had struck after the Peabody Coal Company refused to recognize the Progressive Miners of America.

The morning before their murder, they had been to the main business section of DuQuoin and had observed the brutal attacks that deputies were making against Progressive members. They returned to the home of Arnold to evade the dangers in the city. The four deputy sheriffs shortly afterwards followed the two.

Unknown assailants had shot into the home of Vernon Miller and Glen Canada the night before the murder of Arnold and Attes. One of the fusillade of bullets struck fourteen year old Laverne Miller in the chest. Later she died in the hospital. Miller is an employee at the Gale Strip Mine.

The attack made against the Miller home, which resulted in the fatal shooting of Laverne Miller, was branded an act of provocation perpetrated by enemies of the coal miners to foment trouble in this territory which had previously been peaceable.

In a series of night raids, marked by extreme brutality and terrorism

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RITUAL FORBIDDEN

Arnold was one of the most faithful leaders of the Progressive Miners' cause in Du Quoin and Mrs. Arnold an ardent leader of the Women's Auxiliary. Naturally the widow looked to the union to honor her husband in death. But Perry County "law" would not even be merciful. Forbidden were the white uniforms of the Auxiliary. Forbidden was the burial ritual of the Progressive Miners' union.

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The only party present at the time of the shooting was Arnold's step daughter, Mrs. Corna Bullock, who came to the door of the Arnold residence when the deputies approached the door of the home. The deputies brushed her aside, drew their guns and forced their way into the home. No warrant was presented. Mrs. Bullock, terrorized by the manner the four deputies forced their way into the home, ran out into the yard. A few moments later the shooting took place.

SLAIN PROGRESSIVE'S WIDOW

Mrs. Henry Arnold, Du Quoin, whose husband was brutally murdered in his own home by "special deputies." The child is her granddaughter.